

Cedarburg Mill
215 East Columbia Avenue
(on Cedar Creek)
Cedarburg
Ozaukee County, Wisconsin

HABS No. WIS-154

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CEDARBURG MILL

Location: 215 East Columbia Avenue, (on Cedar Creek),
Cedarburg, Ozaukee County, Wis.

Present Owner: Cedarburg Supply Company, 156 N. Highland Drive,
Cedarburg, Wis.

Present Occupant: Cedarburg Supply Company

Present Use: Feed Mill

Brief Statement
of Significance: This large waterpowered flour mill was built in
1855. Similar structures are fast disappearing in
this area.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Built for Frederick Hilgen and William Schroeder, millers. Hilgen and Schroeder came to Cedarburg in 1844, purchased 30 acres of land for \$35 and built a log mill which was in operation until the present mill was built in 1855. Schroeder was first post-master of Cedarburg. In 1865, Hilgen sold his interest in the mill to a man named Trottmann. The Cedarburg Supply Company acquired the mill ca. 1925-30. The original cost of the mill was \$25,000, and it had a capacity of 120 barrels of flour per day.
2. Date of erection: 1855, according to a stone inscription on the west elevation of the existing building.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Concrete block additions on the southeast and northeast sides of the original stone structure were added about 1935-40 by the present owners.

B. Likely Sources not yet Investigated: An old photograph of the mill is in the Cedarburg Library but it has not been investigated, nor the date of it ascertained.

C. Sources of Information

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1. Interview with Tom M. Vasey, Manager, Cedarburg Supply Company.
2. Interview with Richard W. E. Perrin, Executive Director, Milwaukee Housing Authority, 333 West North Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
3. Richard W. E. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Architecture (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, 1960), page 18.
4. History of Washington and Ozaukee Counties (Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1881).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. This large mill with simply detailed stone walls and typical, heavy interior construction is very impressive architecturally by its size and proportion.
2. Condition of Fabric: Generally fair externally. The interiors are largely gutted and the original machinery mostly removed, but stairs, some doors and hardware, and much original framing are intact.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Orientation and over-all dimensions: The original part of the building is L-shaped, consisting of a main block plus wing. The main block is rectangular, 74-1/2' x 42', with the major axis running northwest-southeast, and with entrances on the southwest side. The wing extends 36-1/2' from the northwest end of the northeast side, and is 30-1/2' wide. The main block is divided 6 bays by 3 bays; the wing, 3 bays by 2 bays. The main block is five stories high with a monitor roof; the wing, four stories with a monitor roof. One story modern additions are at the southeast end and the northeast side.
2. Foundations: Local limestone.
3. Wall construction: Local limestone roughly coursed with regular quoins and cut stone flat arches over openings.

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Main walls 32" thick at first level. Modern additions: concrete block.

4. Porches: Wood platform along the southwest side of the main block, 3'-8" wide, with modern steel canopy.
5. Chimneys: One small brick chimney on the southeast end.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Beaded board and batten doors, single leaf Dutch type, with transoms. The wrought iron hardware on the center door on the southwest side is complete with lock and 24" strap hinges.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung 12 over 12 and 12 over 9 light windows in main block and wing. 12 light monitor windows in main block, 8 light monitor windows in wing.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Monitor roof on main block and wing with gabled center sections and steep shed roofs on either side. Modern composition shingles on the side walk of the monitors and on the roof.
 - b. Cornice: Corbeled brick and wood cornices, of shallow projection, but very tall, are vaguely Greek Revival in style.
8. Name panel: A stone panel at the second floor level in the center of the southwest elevation contains the following carved inscription: CEDARBURG MILL/H & S/1855

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Semi-mill construction with timber posts, girders, beams and flooring. Open interiors with exposed wood structure; no interior partitions except for the masonry walls separating the main block, the wing, and the modern additions.
2. Stairways: Open ladder type of wood stairs. One main set of stairs from the basement to the top floor of the main block; one secondary set of stairs from the second floor of the wing.

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3. Flooring: Wood; ash boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls: plastered directly on masonry. Ceilings: exposed wood beams and flooring.
5. Doorways and doors: None.
6. Trim: Exterior doors have 4-1/2" by 23" solid wood plank frames.
7. Hardware: There is a complete set of original wrought iron hardware on the center door on the southwest side; an incomplete set on first door from the northwest end of the same side.
8. Lighting: At present wired for electricity.
9. Heating: Stoves; most of warehouse is apparently unheated.

D. Site

1. General setting: The mill has an urban setting on a principal street at the edge of Cedar Creek. The old mill race runs under the modern concrete block addition on the southeast side.

Prepared by Henry C. Edwards, Architect,
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St., Philadelphia 6, Pa. - August 1960